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All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be typewritten.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

MALPRACTICE DEFENSE.

In spite of the fact that the relation of the State Society to the various insurance companies and to its members has been repeatedly set forth, letters of inquiry are constantly being received. We would respectfully request all members to read very carefully the information published in the April Journal, particularly on pages 128 and 129, and on pages 132 and 133.

POORLY QUALIFIED.

The following letter, which is published exactly as written except that the names are not given, speaks for itself and shows more clearly than any mere discussion could show the way in which the present medical law and its administration are admitting very poorly qualified persons to practice upon the people of this State:

March 27th, 1916.

Dr. John Doe:

Dear Doctor—Your letter of the 25th, asking for information in regard to Dr. A. B. See, is received. He graduated from the Keokuk Medical College, Iowa, May 26, 1908. He applied for license in this State the same year, and at the examination in August failed with a mark of 58.3. On May 7, 1909, he called at our office and told me that he was licensed in Nevada, that Nevada reciprocated with 16 states, that he could practice there, and before long would come back here and be licensed under reciprocity. In May, 1909, he applied for reciprocity from Nevada with-

out result. He took the examination at Sacramento in December, 1913, and was rejected. He was licensed under reciprocity July 16, 1915, by the State Board of Medical Examiners of California.

This is a typical case of the manner in which the law regulating the practice of medicine in the State of California is being broken down: first, by influences lowering the standards required by law, and second, by the operations of the Board of Examiners in administering the law.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) PHILIP MILLS JONES,
PMJ:S Secretary.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

In a recent Bulletin of the Los Angeles County Association reference is made to a decision of the supreme court of Mississippi, abstract of which was published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, March 18, 1916, page 915. In this case a physician was held liable for not attending a woman in confinement when he had previously agreed to do so, for the reason that at the time when the woman was delivered he was employed in attending to another patient. This case is somewhat peculiar, and the decision against the physician was probably made for the reason that apparently he made no effort to send someone to take his place. This whole question of the right of a physician or patient to terminate the unwritten contract which exists between them is pretty well and clearly defined at law. The real basis of it may be said to be a matter of simple courtesy of one to the other. If a physician finds himself in a predicament of this kind, and is notified that a woman whom he has previously agreed to confine is about to be confined, and if he is in attendance upon another patient, he should immediately notify the woman to be confined, or her relatives or friends, and make some effort to see that she is properly cared for. The case cited would apparently come somewhat under the decision of the Flood case in this state, where the termination of services was abruptly performed by the physician and without due consideration for the patient.

CALIFORNIA SPRINGS.

The cry of "see America first" has been heard throughout the land. But the European war and the fear of submarines did more than any amount of advertising, to convince the traveling public of the wisdom of heeding the cry. So, too, with our mineral springs, with which this country, like Europe, is richly endowed. The waters of the European Spas can all be duplicated in the United States. Some of them are possibly superior to those of Europe. The great trouble with the springs in this country, is that no real effort has been made to induce people to go to them. In this State, we have no place that really meets the requirements of a first class resort. First class hotels, attractive grounds with an abundance of carefully laid-out walks, convenient drinking places,